Internet Update...
Continued

more creating. Forecasters envision what the future weather may hold, and then express it graphically. Once the graphics are constructed, they are shipped to the internet.

But it is much more than just graphics. If you could break a temperature graphic into pieces, you would have small areas no more than a few square miles. Each area, or grid point, would have its own temperature. The computer remembers not only the temperature for each grid point, but for other variables as well (such as wind and sky condition). With lots of grid points across Arkansas and the rest of the country, a national digital forecast database, or NDFD, is born.

Customers can use the NDFD to get weather information for each grid point . It works kind of like the clickable map on the front page of the Little Rock website. When you click on a spot, data is extracted for that spot in the form of a 7 day forecast. Want to learn more about NDFD? Try these links...

Local Graphical Forecast Page
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/data/ifps/lzk/GFE/

NDFD
http://www.nws.noaa.gov/ndfd/

You may have noticed some new radar imagery on the web. With the new images, you have the capability to keep a flat black background, or overlay terrain features, rivers and highways. The new images also plot warnings differently than you may have noticed before. They do not necessarily fit the counties, and are in polygon **shapes. Why?**

The National Weather Service is now issuing warnings for small areas (polygons) instead of entire counties. The "Warning by Polygon" program is designed to alert people in the direct path of severe weather instead of folks across an entire county that might not be affected by the storm. It is hoped that this warning method will be more accurate and will reduce false warnings (where severe weather was advertised but none occurred).

For radar imagery on-line from our office...

Regular Radar Pictures
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/radar/latest/DS.p19r0/si.klzk.shtml

New Experimental Radar Imagery
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge/lzk.shtml

Warning by Polygon
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/html/polygon0405.htm